

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory
2 comprising:
3 planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the
4 item complete during a desired shipping window;
5 determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped
6 via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if
7 shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,
8 determining a carrier service for shipping the item so as to enable the item to
9 be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a
10 destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 obtaining a customer order, the customer order including the item ordered by a
3 customer, the customer order including a desired shipping schedule,
4 the desired shipping schedule corresponding to the expedited shipping
5 method.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein
2 the item is an information handling system.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein
2 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes determining a
3 size of the order.
- 1 5. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes determining a
3 size of the customer order.
- 1 6. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the order includes line of business information; and

3 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the
4 line of business information.

1 7. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding time of day and day of week
3 information; and,
4 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the
5 time of day and day of week information.

1 8. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding hub information; and,
3 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the
4 hub information.

1 9. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding service level information; and,
3 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the
4 service level information.

1 10. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding shipping cost information; and,
3 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the
4 shipping cost information.

1 11. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding preference information; and,
3 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the
4 preference information.

1 12. The method of claim 2 wherein
2 the carrier service includes a plurality of carrier service information; and,
3 the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the
4 plurality of carrier service information.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein
2 the plurality of carrier service information includes at least two of carrier
3 service shipping location information, line of business and order size
4 information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information,
5 hub denied for destination information, service level information,
6 shipping facility destination, zip code service level and total in transit
7 information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub
8 preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

1 14. A method for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory
2 comprising:
3 planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the
4 item complete during a desired shipping window;
5 determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped
6 via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if
7 shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,
8 choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services for shipping the item so as
9 to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method
10 while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping
11 method.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein
2 the choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services includes ranking the
3 plurality of carrier services based upon carrier service information.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein
2 the carrier service information includes at least one of carrier service shipping
3 location information, line of business and order size information,
4 shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied
5 for destination information, service level information, shipping facility
6 destination, zip code service level and total in transit information, time
7 of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference
8 information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

9 17. The method of claim 14 wherein
10 the item is an information handling system.

1 18. A system for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory
2 comprising:
3 means for planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the
4 manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;
5 means for determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to
6 be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a
7 destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,
8 means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item so as to enable
9 the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving
10 at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.

1 19. The system of claim 18 further comprising
2 means for obtaining a customer order, the customer order including the item
3 ordered by a customer, the customer order including a desired shipping
4 schedule, the desired shipping schedule corresponding to the expedited
5 shipping method.

1 20. The system of claim 18 wherein
2 the item is an information handling system.

1 21. The system of claim 18 wherein
2 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
3 means for determining a size of the order.

1 22. The system of claim 19 wherein
2 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
3 means for determining a size of the customer order.

1 23. The system of claim 19 wherein
2 the order includes line of business information; and

3 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
4 means for analyzing the line of business information.

1 24. The system of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding time of day and day of week
3 information; and,
4 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
5 means for analyzing the time of day and day of week information.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding hub information; and,
3 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
4 means for analyzing the hub information.

1 26. The system of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding service level information; and,
3 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
4 means for analyzing the service level information.

1 27. The system of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding shipping cost information; and,
3 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
4 means for analyzing the shipping cost information.

1 28. The system of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding preference information; and,
3 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
4 means for analyzing the preference information.

1 29. The system of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes a plurality of carrier service information; and,
3 the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes
4 means for analyzing the plurality of carrier service information.

1 30. The system of claim 29 wherein
2 the plurality of carrier service information includes at least two of carrier
3 service shipping location information, line of business and order size
4 information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information,
5 hub denied for destination information, service level information,
6 shipping facility destination, zip code service level and total in transit
7 information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub
8 preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

1 31. A system for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory
2 comprising:
3 means for planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the
4 manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;
5 means for determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to
6 be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a
7 destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,
8 means for choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services for shipping the
9 item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping
10 method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited
11 shipping method.

1 32. The system of claim 31 wherein
2 the means for choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services includes
3 means for ranking the plurality of carrier services based upon carrier
4 service information.

1 33. The system of claim 32 wherein
2 the carrier service information includes at least one of carrier service shipping
3 location information, line of business and order size information,
4 shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied
5 for destination information, service level information, shipping facility
6 destination, zip code service level and total in transit information, time

7 of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference
8 information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

9 34. The system of claim 31 wherein
10 the item is an information handling system.

1 35. An apparatus for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory
2 comprising:
3 a time planning module, the time planning module planning a time for
4 manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item
5 complete during a desired shipping window;
6 a shipping window module, the shipping window module determining the
7 desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a
8 lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped
9 via an expedited shipping method; and,
10 a carrier service determining module, the carrier service determining module
11 determining a carrier service for shipping the item so as to enable the
12 item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a
13 destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 35 further comprising
2 an order obtaining module, the order obtaining module, obtaining a customer
3 order, the customer order including the item ordered by a customer, the
4 customer order including a desired shipping schedule, the desired
5 shipping schedule corresponding to the expedited shipping method.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein
2 the item is an information handling system.

1 38. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein
2 the carrier service determining module determines a size of the order.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2 the carrier service determining module determines a size of the customer
3 order.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2 the order includes line of business information; and
3 the carrier service determining module analyzes the line of business
4 information.

1 41. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding time of day and day of week
3 information; and,
4 the carrier service determining module analyzes the time of day and day of
5 week information.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding hub information; and,
3 the carrier service determining module analyzes the hub information.

1 43. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding service level information; and,
3 the carrier service determining module analyzes the service level information.

1 44. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding shipping cost information; and,
3 the carrier service determining module analyzes the shipping cost information.

1 45. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2 the carrier service includes corresponding preference information; and,
3 the carrier service determining module analyzes the preference information.

1 46. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein
2 the carrier service includes a plurality of carrier service information; and,

3 the carrier service determining module analyzes the plurality of carrier service
4 information.

1 47. The apparatus of claim 44 wherein
2 the plurality of carrier service information includes at least two of carrier
3 service shipping location information, line of business and order size
4 information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information,
5 hub denied for destination information, service level information,
6 shipping facility destination, zip code service level and total in transit
7 information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub
8 preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

1 48. An apparatus for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory
2 comprising:
3 a time planning module, the time planning module planning a time for
4 manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item
5 complete during a desired shipping window;
6 a shipping window determining module, the shipping window determining
7 module determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the
8 item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a
9 destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,
10 a carrier service choosing module, the carrier service choosing module
11 choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services for shipping the
12 item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping
13 method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited
14 shipping method.

1 49. The apparatus of claim 48 wherein
2 the carrier service choosing module ranks the plurality of carrier services
3 based upon carrier service information.

1 50. The apparatus of claim 49 wherein
2 the carrier service information includes at least one of carrier service shipping
3 location information, line of business and order size information,

4 shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied
5 for destination information, service level information, shipping facility
6 destination, zip code service level and total in transit information, time
7 of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference
8 information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

9 51. The apparatus of claim 48 wherein
10 the item is an information handling system.